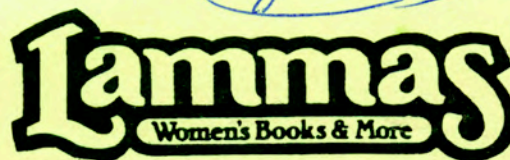


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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The lesbian family is here to stay, and this new visibility of alternative families did not escape the eyes of visionary artists Leigh Bailey and Doug Michels. The D.C. based creation team has designed the dollhouse of the future: DOLLENNIUM 2000, which has the needs and realities of modern lesbian families in mind. Opening on Human Rights Day, December 10, 1993 DOLLENNIUM 2000 can be found at Lammas Women's Books and More, Washington's only women's/feminist/lesbian bookstore. Located at 1426 21st Street, N.W. in the heart of DuPont Circle, Lammas is where Bailey and Michels will unveil their innovative architectural creation to Washington and the world.

DOLLENNIUM 2000, the only lesbian-specific dollhouse in existence, is an impressive and thought-provoking sight. It's a three-foot, 5-level, completely round space-age home built for two doll mothers and their young daughter and son. "Our dollhouse is architecturally futuristic," grants Michels, whose Ant Farm design team in 1974 created the renowned American Icon, Cadillac Ranch, "Since we were transcending traditional constructs of the family, we thought why not throw off traditional architecture too."

DOLLENNIUM 2000 is indeed a masterful creation. From the streamlined interiors with sensuous fabrics and hand-crafted furniture to its sublime sky garden and rooftop office, this one-of-a-kind dollhouse design is intricately crafted with the finest materials and assembled with a meticulous attention to detail. DOLLENNIUM 2000 is different from traditional dollhouses in many senses. It incorporates the perfect shape of harmony – the circle and its round shape allows play from all sides. Symbolizing the natural world and its cycles, the circular shape is designed to reassure and inspire children.

Perhaps the most impressive quality of this streamlined world all are the dolls themselves. These exquisitely detailed miniature women animate the lesbian dollhouse with beauty and charm. All wearing original designer fashions, twenty-one doll ladies come to life in a fabulous Millennial New Year's Eve party. Celebrating the new century, you'll discover a swirl of signature girls each adorned in a daring fashion statement. Some dance in flowing beaded gowns, other exude sexual charm in erotic party outfits. Each delicate doll in this futuristic scene is a hand-crafted miniature art figure created with extraordinary attention to individual personality, style and "preference." Doll clothes for lesbian and mothers and their kids are designed by Lisa Elliott, owner of the Los Angeles store Neo 80 and the Cherkasky sisters of DOLLZ 2 WOMEN. Builder of the dollhouse is American craftsman D.W. Hurr.

-continued-



Inside **DOLLENNIUM 2000**, a miniature New Year's eve celebration is in full swing. Hosting this delightful doll fete are, lesbian power couple, Camille and Susan, who've been together for about twelve years. They are the mothers of Heather and Neo. A precocious child, Heather is quite an athlete and is the star of the New Neptune Elementary School soccer team. Her brother Neo, a born humorist from the start, keeps the family entertained with his surprisingly sophisticated humor and plans to go on stage as soon as he's older.

Camille is often at home working in Dollennium's rooftop "telesphere" office. Her work allows her to enjoy the comforts of home and also to be there for the kids. She's a very successful novelist and has recently moved into screen-writing as her first novel Blue Iris has been signed as a film. This film contract is quite a victory as this marks the first time a provocative tale of lesbian love has gone main-stage. Susan is a geneticist working on the Biogenesis "gene mapping" project. She is one of the first scientists to explore the incredible replicative power of human genes. Susan shares the telesphere with Camille, but does most of her work at the BioGeno Lab in the city. This modern family definitely needs a modern home to suit their needs. "DOLLENNIUM 2000 is a model for social innovation and cultural advance," concludes Bailey, "We believe in the philosophy of Dollennium"

The dollhouse was inspired in part by Leslea Newman's book **Heather Has Two Mommies**. Author Newman will fly in from Massachusetts to join Bailey, Michels and Lammas for the unveiling of DOLLENNIUM 2000 on December 10th. Also present at the opening reception will be the entire DOLLENNIUM design team including Elliott, the Cherkasky Sisters and Hurr. DOLLENNIUM supermodel Mari Houston and photographer Annie Adjchavanich will also be on hand. After a festive opening reception with the design team, Newman, local lesbian parents and their children and other special guests, DOLLENNIUM 2000 will remain on display in Lammas through the beginning of the year.

The DOLLENNIUM 2000 pavilion on display at Lammas, will be for sale beginning December 10. The purchase price for DOLLENNIUM 2000 is eleven thousand dollars. In addition to the five-level doll home and display case, all scale furniture, futuristic art, miniature gardens and aquatic iconography are included. Featured prominently are twenty-one beautifully crafted miniature lesbian dolls and a friendly "Doliphin" family of three mother and five baby dolphins. Included in the price are original blueprints signed by the artists. Also available at Lammas are signed DOLLENNIUM photographs and prints.

DOLLENNIUM 2000 is both a functional dollhouse and a prescient icon of lesbian motherhood. Experience this miniature masterpiece on view at Lammas from December 10, 1993 until February 3, 1994.

###

**DOLLENNIUM 2000**





THE CADILLAC RANCH

Eight miles West of Amarillo, Texas on Route 66 stands the CADILLAC RANCH, a roadside attraction created by Ant Farm (Lord, Marquez, Michels), 1974. Photographed by Wyatt McSpadden, 1976. © Ant Farm 1981.

DEC. 10, 1993

Cadillac Ranch

DOLLENNIUM 2000

DOLLENNIUM 2000

post card

CINDY PATTON

BEATRIZ COLOWNA

EVE K. SEDGWICK

Future Idea Manifesto

DOLLENNIUM 2000

PLEASE CONSIDER "DOLLENNIUM" 2000 FOR YOUR  
QUEER SPACE MANIFESTO.

LEIGH BAILEY

(202) 544-8083





# Dollennium 2000<sup>©</sup>

## Home of the New Family

Before one starts designing a dollhouse, it is necessary to think about just what a dollhouse is: who plays with it, how they use it, the form and substance of such a structure, etc. The act of playing with dolls whether in a dollhouse or not is an amazingly creative process. Play starts very spontaneously -- little stage setting is needed. A child will pick up a doll and say to her friend "Let's pretend like she's going to the store with her Mommy"—with no other discussion an elaborate improvisation begins. The dolls are taken through all kinds of scenarios and the story develops around various "let's pretends."

The dollhouse itself can be of very great importance and may become the stage for these adventures. The traditional dollhouse is rather limiting in its durable play ability—one can get at it only from the back and must reach into tiny little room to manipulate the dolls. Doll families often seem as though they were made in the 1950s with perfectly molded white, upper-class Daddies, Mommys, Brothers and Sisters (and perhaps a white plastic poodle or kitty). Mommy is expected to stay home and cook plastic food for the family in the Sears and Roebuck kitchen while the kids play in their model bedrooms.

Of course it goes without saying family life isn't always like that anymore. Today's dollhouse users might not have a daddy or a mommy or maybe he or she has two mommies or daddies. Why not make dolls available that reflect these realities? This is not to say that the kids with no daddies should be allowed only a fatherless doll set but perhaps that the child from the WASP family would have a doll set with two mommies, his friend down the street might have the no mommy model, and her big sister might have the fatherless set. That would mean that these kids might grow up accepting that families and family values come in all sizes and shapes.

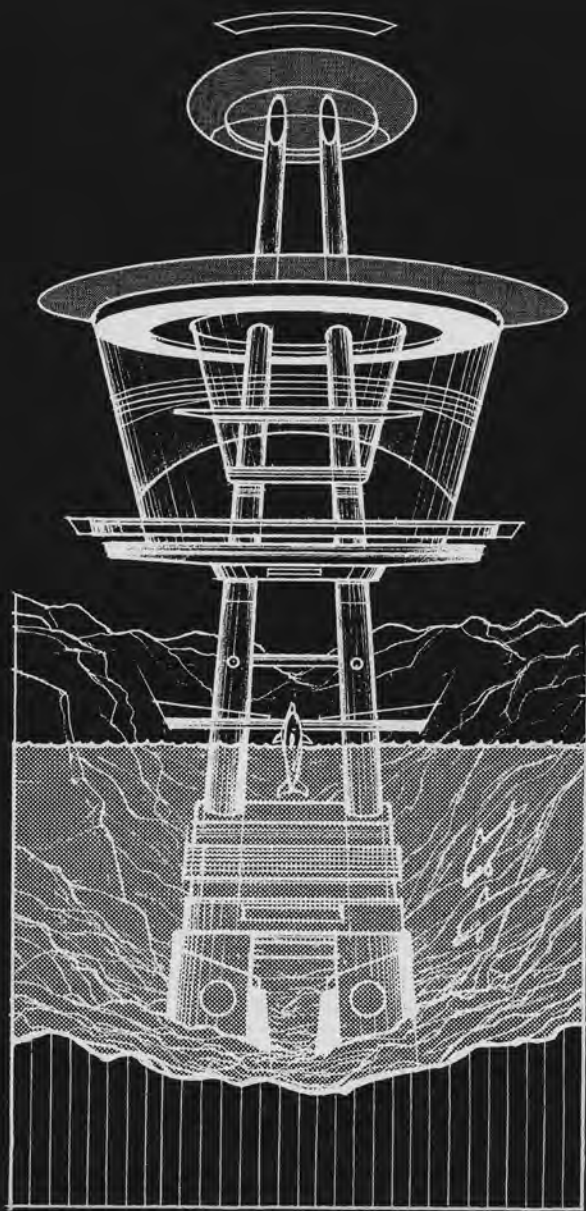
Dollennium recognizes these needs from the start. Our tiny clients are a modern Lesbian family. Camille and Susan are a married couple who've been together for

about 12 years. They'd both always wanted children and decided not to let traditional barriers get in their way. Their close friend Mars seemed an ideal candidate -- rather handsome, intelligent, and very open-minded. Through artificial insemination, Camille was impregnated by Mars and nine months later Heather was born. A precocious child, Heather is quite an athlete and is the star of the New Neptune Elementary School Soccer Team. A couple of years later Susan decided she too wanted a try a motherhood and Mars was called into action again. Young Neo, a born humorist from the start, now keeps the family entertained with his surprisingly sophisticated humor and plans to go on stage as soon as he's older. The kids both know Mars is their father and see him on a regular basis. He plays the approximate role that a "divorced daddy" would, taking them to the zoo, museums and movies and providing special treats.

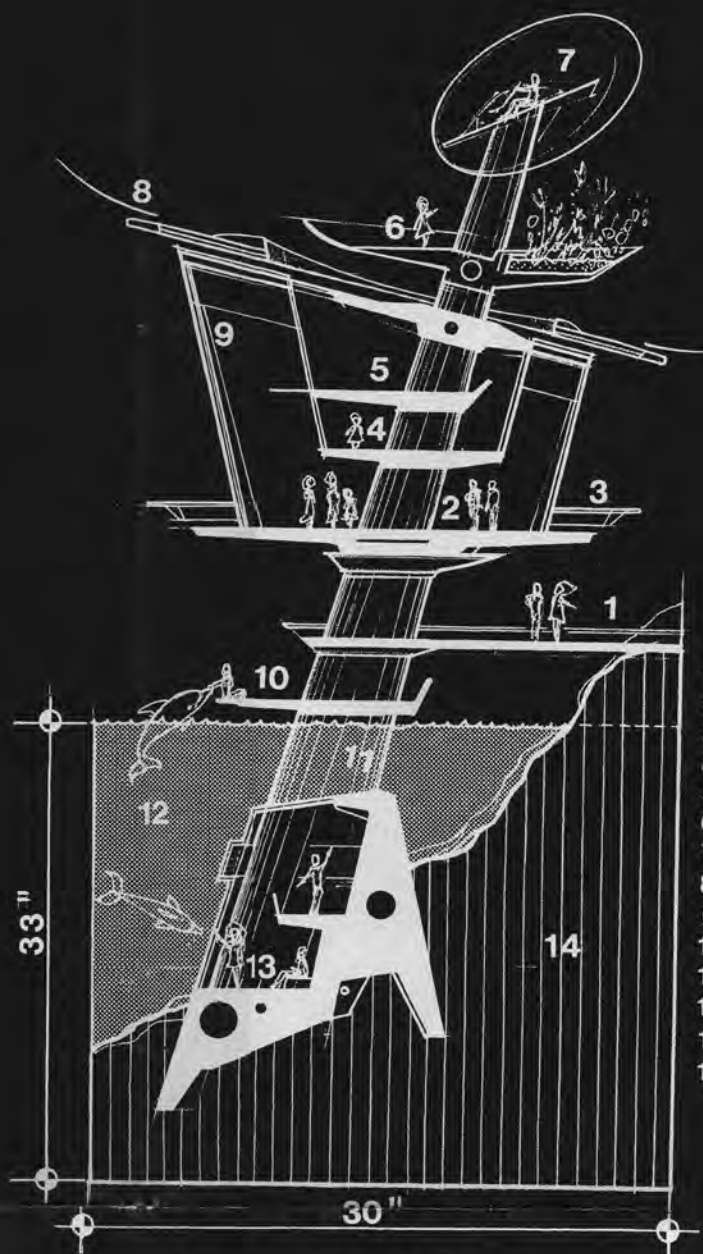
Camille is often at home working in the house's telesphere office. Her work allows her to enjoy the comforts of home and also to be there for the kids. She's a very successful novelist and has recently moved into screen-writing as her first novel, *Blue Iris*, has been signed as a film. This film contract is quite a victory as this marks the first time a provocative tale of lesbian love has gone main-stage. Susan is a geneticist working on the Biogenesis "gene mapping" project. She is one of the first scientists to explore the incredible replicative power of the human gene. Susan has a small at-home office space but does most of her work at the BioGeno Lab in the city. This modern family definitely needs a modern home to suit their needs.

Dollennium is different from traditional dollhouses in many senses. Most obviously it is round -- allowing play from all sides. Dollennium also incorporates the perfect shape of harmony -- the circle. This circular form is both a useful design and a multi-faceted symbol. Circles recall the natural world and its cycles, the sun and the moon. Its rhythms harken back to primitive days and powerful symbols of tribal unity. The circle's perfection wholeness and harmony will reassure and inspire children.





ELEVATION



DOLLENIUM SECTION

## LEGEND

- 1 ENTRY BRIDGE
- 2 THE NEW FAMILY
- 3 360 BALCONY
- 4 CHILDREN
- 5 PARENTS
- 6 SKY GARDEN
- 7 TELESPIHERE
- 8 SOLAR POWER
- 9 PRETEND GLASS
- 10 DOLLPHIN DECK
- 11 PYLON STRUCTURE
- 12 MINIATURE WATER
- 13 UNDERSEA CHAMBER
- 14 CONCEPT ISLAND

2000



DOLLENIUM FLOOR PLANS

TELESPIHERE  
COMMUNICATION

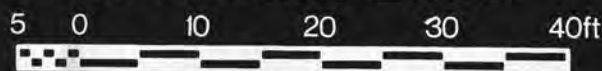
PARENTS  
BEDROOM & STUDY

CHILDREN  
BEDROOMS & PLAYROOM

FAMILY  
◆ LIVING  
◆ DINING  
◆ KITCHEN  
◆ BALCONY  
◆ FAMILY SPACE

SITE

## Dollennium 2000®



Dollennium is designed to be a seaside venture and in fact is in the water -- a sturdy platform and a useable underwater room support the house. In addition, a built-in water filtering system pumps this convenient water in to serve as the house's water supply. An open seaway allows friendly and intelligent dolphins to swim up to the platform to serve as comrades and confidants. The house can be accessed with any watercraft or by passage along a sturdy bridge connecting it to the island community.

The steel pylons that support the house also cleverly conceal all of the electrical and plumbing apparatuses. In addition, one support incases a staircase and elevator. The first level of Dollennium is the main living area. Walls are made to be shifted as the child wishes allowing dining room, living room and kitchen to be created and rearranged constantly. In our house Heather and Neo live on the second level -- they share a playroom at the front of the slab and have matching rooms on either side. Camille and Susan's room is tucked away on the third slab -- they have a generous bedroom and sitting room. Finally, clever use of space is made with a rooftop hydroponic garden space that allows the family to grow its own vegetables, herbs and flowers. And, hovering above the roof garden is a futuristic home office called "telesphere."

Unlike other futuristic structures, Dollennium combines the best of several worlds. While its exterior structure is very futuristic and sleek, the interior strives to retain the comfortable appearance of a "big old house." Rich hard-wood floors, jewel-tones and fabrics work together to create a homey interior -- no cold modern, sterility. Dollennium is as modern as tomorrow, traditional as yesterday.

The house connects to an island community that hosts similar residences. The unique shape of the house structure allows for great flexibility -- the same construction plan can play host to single family dwellings, apartment houses, low-income housing, and commercial space -- simply by adjusting the size and number of discs on a structure. The materials used are sturdy and resilient and make use of new developments in construction materials. The island stresses community living and diversity and a cheerful community center provides child-care, community activities and employment. There are frequent "town meetings" to discuss ideas and innovations that often arise from such a diverse population.

From the liberated island atmosphere, new forms of creativity arise. With imagination free, play extends into life. "Let's pretend" becomes a password to prescience and encourages a more fluid boundary between children and ideas. The easy fantasy of doll play can influence grown-ups with creative vision. Dollennium 2000 is a model for social innovation and cultural advance.

Michels Bailey Architecture